

July 17, 2001

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation in CC Docket No. 96-98**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On July 16, 2001, the undersigned, accompanied by Stephen D. Trotman, Vice President - Industry Relations of the Association of Communications Enterprises ("ASCENT"), met with Jeffrey J. Carlisle, Senior Deputy Chief of the Common Carrier Bureau and Jonathan Reel, Attorney Advisor of the Policy and Planning Division of the Common Carrier Bureau, to discuss ASCENT's pending Petition for Reconsideration of the Commission's *Third Report and Order* in CC Docket No. 96-98. During the meeting, ASCENT urged the Commission to increase the availability of unbundled local switching to serve small business customers.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Hunter